REMARKS

The specification is amended herein to conform to the priority continuation application serial number 09/494,665, filed January 31, 2000, now pending. Revisions to the specification are intended to be identical to those made in the priority continuation application. Because certain of these revisions insert material incorporated by reference into the specification, this Preliminary Amendment is accompanied by a Declaration executed by Applicants' attorney, stating that the amended material consists of the same material incorporated by reference in the referencing application.

With this Preliminary Amendment, new claims 17-26 are presented. These claims present no new matter and are believed to be patentable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance for claims 17-26 is respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted for entry in the above-identified application prior to an Examiner undertaking a first Action in connection therewith.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Albert 23, 2003

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